The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, appearing in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 33. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1919. WHOLE NO. 449.

MINERS DON'T AVERAGE 6-HOUR WORK-DAY NOW

Washington, Nov. 5.—"If the miners could reach the great mass of their citizens and explain their six-hour day demand, opposition to this proposal would disappear," said Edgar Wallace, representative of the United Mine Workers.

"The coal miners," said the trade unionist, "can show by the United States geological survey that they have not averaged six hours a day for 31 years. Reports by the government bureau show that since 1902 the miner has worked from 156 to 228 days a year. Last year he worked, according to 1918 whom, under war stress, the mines were operated more nearly and the men received 228 days' employment. Their average years in employment since 1902 is 206 days.

"What the miners are really asking is not a reduction of hours, but a guarantee that they will have work days a week throughout the year.

RAILROAD SOLUTION DEMANDS MORE TIME

Washington, Nov. 5.—At a conference of members of the congressional labor group, officials of the A. F. of L., its affiliated bodies and the four great railroad brotherhoods it was agreed that proposed anti-strike legislation should be resisted and that government control of railroads should be continued for two years that the people may thoroughly understand the situation before final action is taken.

After the conference had the following statement:

"Second—That in the opinion of American labor the return of the railroad properties to private ownership at this time would be a grave mistake. Under plans proposed for the return of the railroads to private operation it would be followed by financial disaster, by industrial rates of over 25 per cent. Either of these would shake the industrial fabric of the nation at the time when it should be bolstered for moral, financial and political leadership.

"In order to avoid these calamitous consequences the members of the conference present were urged to introduce legislation continuing government control of the railroads for two years after the conclusion of peace. This will afford the American people an opportunity to consider the many solutions of the railroad problem which have been put forward.

"The railroad question affects the lives of all the people of our country, who should be given opportunity to acquaint themselves with the various solutions proposed, that a mature judgment may be reached. This problem should not be a matter for hasty consideration and decision.

"It was agreed that the legislation suggested on these questions would be drafted at the earliest possible date, and they should be presented sufficiently in both houses of congress, and the Railway Employes' Journal and the Locomotive Engineers' Journal and smashes the latest fad.

Recently the Massachusetts legislature passed a law forbidding corporations to place employes on boards of directors and the governor of the state has publicly declared it is another forward step by the great commonwealth.

Maine pokes fun at the law and says it is as humorous as the law that was passed giving him the right to present his child with an apple. He knows that the Massachusetts law had the right to give an employe a share of stock and then elect him to the board of directors.

"But this was too simple," says the labor editor. Likewise was no grand stand play or lime light stuff about it.

"Is it singular that the corporation represented by the legislator who introduced this bill has always avoided dealing with its employes as a body and has always fought collective bargaining?

"We have not heard of any instance in which any employing interest has advocated that the principle of labor participation in management be applied in dealing with union employes. Like public ownership it seems to be intended only for consumption by non-union employes or a means by which non-union employers hope to avoid recognition of and dealings with unions of labor.

"For our part, give us collective bargaining, full recognition, and we will have more sympathy with the trials and troubles of successful business management. The main responsibilities of which we seek no share. Please do not waste any more time in mixing knockout drops while organized labor refuses to take."

SPECULATION BLAMED.

Washington, Nov. 5.—Speculation in leather and boot and shoe stocks must be largely responsible for present high prices, said Herbert Feis, chief of the federal food administrator, in his testimony to a house war investigating committee.

He said large stocks were accumulated by business men in the belief that export trade to Germany would be opened soon after the armistice was signed instead of last July when the harvest was about to begin.

Feis declared that Herbert Hoover, the witness cited the advance in hog prices from $17.50 a hundred weight to $23 as indicating the speculation for the expected export demand.

"But the wrong way," he said, "the wholesale price of pork also has gone down all the way in spite of the fact the retail prices have fallen practically none, as far as I can see." he added.

JOHN MURRAY IS DEAD.

Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 8.—John Murray, editor and publisher, died here after a long illness because of bronchial troubles. Deceased was a member of the International Typographical Union and was elected English-speaking secretary to the Parties of the Pan-American Federation of Labor when that organization was formed in Laredo, Texas, November 1918. He wrote voluminously on the Mexican situation and was a student of that country and the Latin-American workers.

He has been ill for many months and would stay in Washington, at the headquarters of the Pan-American Federation until he was compelled to go when he would come west to recuperate.

LABOR EDITOR IN CONTEMPT.

Fort Wayne, Ind., Nov. 8.—Editor Bell of the Fort Wayne Worker printed a story of strikebreaking activities employed by the S. F. Bowser company and how he is cited for contempt of court. The company wants to establish a "union" of the Rockefeller kind and a meeting was held in Indianapolis of trade unionists who suspended work to hear them accept this privilege.

Editor Bell is now charged with "offensive and indecent" conduct toward the company "loyal" employes because he printed their names under the caption "Scabs."

A PLEASING PROSPECT.

New York, Nov. 8.—A new altitude record was recently made by Major R. W. Schroeder when he ascended 21,920 feet and now officers of the American flying corps think the aerial battles of the future will be fought at extremely high altitudes to eschew capable of rising eight miles above the earth.

PROPORTION OF THE ORGANIZED

What is the Percentage of the Organized Workers in the Organizable Occupations of the United States?

By J. W. SULLIVAN.
New York Typographical Union.

When Elbert H. Gary, speaking October 24 at a meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute, asserted that "from 85 to 90 per cent or more of labor in this country is non-union," he intended the assertion to be of use chiefly among his class of anti-union plutocratic employers and their retainers, to mislead them into the belief that the Americanized foreign labor, ignorant as to the strength of the unionism of the United States. This is one of the stock-in-trade "thumpers" so often repeated by the United States Steel Corporation, that it is being echoed in a part of the public press and by Federal Judge Landis until it controls more to light on a moment's examination.

The latest census gives the number of persons "in gainful occupations," as:

Males	30,060,000
Females	8,040,000
Total	38,000,000

This total was thus classified:

		Per.
Agriculture	12,650,000	33.2
Domestic and General Serv.		
ice	3,770,000	9.9
Professional Service	1,760,000	4.6
Public Service	460,000	1.2
Clerical Service	2,600,000	6.8
Trade	2,600,000	6.5
Total	23,900,000	62.8
Extracting Minerals	942,000	
Manufacturing and Me.		
chanical Work	10,000,000	
Transportation	2,617,000	
Total	14,100,000	37.2
Grand Total	38,000,000	100

In no country are workers of the first group (23,900,000) organized to any extent. In the second group (14,100,000) besides wage workers there are employers big and little, the "professional" class, the "public service" holding trades, unskilled, unassimilated foreigners, craftsmen in small industries or in non-industrial communities and numerous persons self-employed. Only estimates can be formed for the numbers in these classifications, which either have interests apart from the wage earning workers or in all countries are unorganizable.

In this group of 14,000,000 are from 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 employers and high salaried employes? Are there 2,000,000 or 4,000,000 adults in the "clerical" class? Are there 2,000,000 or 4,000,000 adults in its other categories? These questions, when put to statisticians, bring positive figures as they involve the uncertainties of guesswork. Let there be an average of 3,000,000 in each of these three classifications (total 6,000,000) organizable and you would have 40 per cent in industry in this country is 8,000,000 (14,000,000 minus the 6,000,000). The American Federation of Labor and the railroad brotherhoods now count up 4,000,000. This would give 53 per cent of the total 8,000,000 organizable organized. But if the three estimates be insufficient by 2,000,000 of 6,000,000, the percentage of the organized becomes 33 (4,000,000 out of 12,000,000) and if 3,000,000, the percentage is 72. (4,500,000 out of 6,500,000).

But, come to the practical question. In any particular industrial contest between buyers and sellers of labor power the proportion of the organized to the unorganized in all the states of America has little bearing. The outcome of any such struggle depends upon the attitude of the unorganized and unemployed who are qualified to work at the occupations affected and reached by it. (4,000,000 out of 14,000,000 and 4,000,000, the percentage is 72. (4,500,000 out of 6,500,000).

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The wage conflict being most active in industrial centers, workers in them are more generally thoroughly organized. The more highly skilled the trade the more likely organization will have an effectiveness in unionized labor of 100 per cent.

Yet employers' spokesmen go on repeating that there are "millions" of unorganized workers (or 15 per cent) of American labor," that only "about" (or one-tenth) of the workers "are in trade unions in the United States. "Here are the official figures," they say: "Thirty-two million workers; less than four million unionists." They substitute "workers" for the statutory phrase "persons in gainful occupations," and thus "do" their employers.

In the light of the foregoing analysis of the census figures the American trade unionists have the better of the argument. They can certainly claim for industry 50 per cent organized as a minimum. They can claim more without venturing into vague probabilities. They can admit that the census figures are not freak, but some others except rough estimates are to be had. They can also admit that in the first of the groups above mentioned are some wage-workers possibly organizable. They can further admit that in the A. F. of L. are comprised workers from one hundred thousand Canadians. But, with these modifications made, the percentages here claimed for union labor are not seriously affected. It is to be kept in mind, too, that in the A. F. of L. statistics there are included neither the railroad brotherhoods nor the W. W.

Under-rating the numerical strength of the American trade union movement is frequently accompanied by an over-rating of the British. Recently the British labor "representation" commission was recently quoted in the London Times as saying: "While our trade unions are 85 per cent organized in unions, the unions of the United States have only 15 per cent or 20 per cent so organized," and the impression that these proportions obtain in Britain is a fact seems to prevail generally.

The fact is that Britain do not show 85 per cent of "the workers" organized. Far from it. Mr. H. J. Wilson, in a carefully prepared paper read at the annual convention of the British Industrial League in August last, estimated that in 1914 there were in the Kingdom 19,420,000 "occupied persons," of whom 14,000,000 were males. In the remainder in 1914 were those having incomes under £160 ($800) a year. For 1917 the occupations were:

Agriculture	1,650,000
Domestic service	1,850,000
Commercial, professional	2,240,000
Persons employing themselves	1,500,000
Manufacturing trades	6,410,000
Railway trades	1,000,000
Mines and quarries	1,000,000
Casual labor	100,000
	16,420,000

The four classifications last named in the table number 8,510,000, as reported at the Twenty Trade Congress in 1918. The membership of British trade unionists was 4,500,000, and the "occupied" in the Kingdom were 19,420,000 "occupied persons organizable, the proportion of the organized was 23 per cent, instead of about 50 per cent. But Mr. Williams also says that in 1911 there were 11,000,000 persons "earning with incomes under £160 employed by others," thus indicating "constructably less than 50 per cent organized.

Far-Reaching Miners' Injunction Secured By Federal Government

Indianapolis, Nov. 8.—At the request of the United States government Federal Judge Anderson issued a sweeping injunction against officers and members of the United Mine Workers on the eve of their nation-wide strike to enforce higher wages and shorter hours.

The legal term of the injunction is "a restraining order," and is directed against Acting President Lewis and his associate international and district officials from aiding or abetting the miners' strike in any manner whatsoever. The enjoined named thirteen strike leaders, and not address meetings of strikers, or do anything that Judge Anderson might construe as encouraging the miners to remain on strike. The order also ties up the funds of the United Mine Workers.

The scope and intent of the injunction is shown by Attorney General Palmer's instructions to all federal district attorneys:

"It is of the utmost importance that (1 should be promptly advised of any concerted action by any two or more persons in your district to carry forward this strike."

When Judge Anderson signed the restraining order all plans were set when the government's application for a temporary injunction and the permanent injunction will be heard. The effect of any of these will be the same—they will put the labor injunctions in all that the term implies.

As is usual the miners had no voice in the proceedings. They were not represented and neither were the operators. The latter retired from the scene and permitted the government to make the fight against the miners. They were charged with "conspiracy" and attempting to interfere with production, a charge constantly made by state officials to enforce improved living conditions.

The government declared the strike would make it impossible for the operators to fulfill their contracts with the United States railroad administration. The miners were held to be "conspirators," and were charged with attempting to "intimidate" the coal operators. The latter were handled very gingerly by the government's representative, while the miners, who furnished 80.00 of their members for military service in the war for democracy, were ordered to men of sinister design and purpose because they would not take the last report and suspend work after months of negotiation.

The government's attorneys insisted that the proceedings were in no wise intended to deny the workers their right to quit work. This was made so plain that it rendered trade unionists of the mother who told her daughter she could "go out to swim," but must not go near the water.

To prove that it is strictly impartial in its opposition to this strike the government has notified operators that they must not charge "an excessive price" for coal.

Washington, Nov. 5.—A local newspaper quotes Attorney General Palmer to the effect that if further injunctions are obtained they probably would be directed against other than those against officials of the miners' union at Indianapolis.

Palmer is said the newspaper, "is in line with his instructions to district attorneys to keep a close watch on the situation and to report daily on the strike and to report immediately to Washington any signs of lawlessness.

The above is an intimation that mass meetings in the interest of the strike will be broken up under the ground that it aided "conspiracy." Air the meetings will be prevented from disbursing strike benefits any attempt of other parties to raise money, food or clothing could also be construed as a violation of "law" as laid down by publicity by behalf of the strikers.

JOINT MANAGEMENT SCHEME PUNCTURED

Boston, Nov. 8.—Just as saviors of the people are figuring how much publicity is in the scheme to give labor a voice in management, along comes Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal and smashes the latest fad.

Recently the Massachusetts legislature passed a law forbidding corporations to place employes on boards of directors and the governor of the state has publicly declared it is another forward step by the great commonwealth.

Maine pokes fun at the law and says it is as humorous as the law that was passed giving him the right to present his child with an apple. He knows that the Massachusetts law had the right to give an employe a share of stock and then elect him to the board of directors.

"But this was too simple," says the labor editor. Likewise was no grand stand play or lime light stuff about it.

"Is it singular that the corporation represented by the legislator who introduced this bill has always avoided dealing with its employes as a body and has always fought collective bargaining?

"We have not heard of any instance in which any employing interest has advocated that the principle of labor participation in management be applied in dealing with union employes. Like public ownership it seems to be intended only for consumption by non-union employes or a means by which non-union employers hope to avoid recognition of and dealings with unions of labor.

"For our part, give us collective bargaining, full recognition, and we will have more sympathy with the trials and troubles of successful business management. The main responsibilities of which we seek no share. Please do not waste any more time in mixing knockout drops while organized labor refuses to take."

LAW MAKERS ORATE; MINERS ARE FLAYED

Washington, Nov. 8.—Orators had a field day in congress when a joint resolution declaring for the enforcement of "obedience to and respect for the constitution and the laws" was passed by both houses because the time arose. Then the resolution was endorsed in its "effort to establish the "majesty and power of government."

The resolution was a vehicle for one to "view with alarm" the activities of non-partisan anti-unionism ever withheld for utterance.

While the orators of both parties were thundering, amidst the applause of the galleries, against the necessity for constitutional rights, Federal Judge Anderson was issuing his anti-strike injunction in Indianapolis against the miners.

The feeling in the house was shown when Congressman King the labor editor, declared he was on grand stand play or lime light stuff about it.

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WHY MAILS ARE LATE.

Cleveland, Nov. 8.—To find the reason for late mails William Dowdell, a Cleveland Press reporter, secured employment in the city post office.

Writing of his experience the newspaper man said:

"Things are in a bad way in the Cleveland post office.

"There are not enough employes to handle the mail. Clerks are given three-fourths are without special post office training or experience.

"Each of it all is the low pay. That is why experienced mail workers are rapidly leaving the service. That is why it is so difficult to get inexperienced men, and why they do not stay when they come to look upon it as the beginning of a career, but merely as temporary employment to be held until something better turns up."

FOOD COSTS KEEP JUMPING.

Washington, Nov. 5.—The retail price of food in October, 1919, increased 1 per cent in August as compared with July, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics. Between August, 1913, and August, 1919, the increase was 84 per cent.

From August, 1913, to August, 1918, the increase was 43 per cent. The most notable increases are: Ham, 130 per cent; bacon, 105 per cent; pork chops, 104 per cent; beef, 102 per cent; flour, 124 per cent; lard, 161 per cent; potatoes, 96 per cent.

The bureau states that the August, 1919, figures are "more than in any previous month."

UNIONISTS EVICTED.

Beaglusa, La., Nov. 5.—The Great Southern Lumber company has ordered the eviction of the workers the company houses because these workers are members of the United Brotherhood. The workers are members of the International Union Timber Workers and because they have asked the governor to provide tents that their wives and children may not sleep in the streets and vacant lots.

TEACHERS WOULD AID.

San Francisco, Nov. 5.—The labor council has indorsed the request of organized teachers that the board of education grant the request of members of the teachers who would be permitted to act as strikebreakers. The board and make such suggestions as will be beneficial to the department.

CO-OPS. IN OMAHA.

Omaha, Nov. 5.—A co-operative association has been formed in this city by railroad men.

Houston, Texas, Nov. 5.—The Rochdale union, a co-operative association, has bought a grocery store and will hereafter be conducted on the co-op. plan.

GET $1 AN HOUR.

Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 5.—A wage rate of $1 an hour has been established by the Plasterers' union.

WORKERS TO DISCUSS PRESSING PROBLEMS

Washington, Nov. 5.—The December 15th conference of industrial and transportation workers, called by the A. F. of L., is now assured and the four railroad brotherhoods, will be a notable event.

Representatives of national and international affiliates of the A. F. of L. will meet with the representatives of the railroad brotherhoods, to consider, the call states, the grave dangers now threatening the foundation of organized labor in this and other industrial countries.

It is intended to take counsel and to formulate such action as may be necessary to safeguard and promote the rights, interests and freedom of the wage earners, the basis of which are their duties as citizens and at the same time to safeguard and secure to free men in order to conserve human interest and welfare.

"We confer with the representatives of the various farmers' organizations," the call states, "and several bodies will be held within the next 30 days. The representatives of the various groups will be invited to the conference, did not feel that they had the authority to commit themselves to this call. However, formal communications will be sent to their conventions for action. The invitation to representatives to participate in the conference of November 15 with authority to speak in the name of the organizations they represent."

PACKERS USE OLD METHODS.

Washington, Nov. 5.—In opposing any attempt to regulate their business the meat packers are using the same methods they did two years ago when resisting legislation for meat inspection, it was charged in the testimony of the federal trade commission, in a speech in this city.

"In a book Hibrary," said the speaker, "and get the bound files of any newspaper covering the year June, 1906, and you will find these very arguments against government regulation, socialism and anarchy and destruction of export trade—all applied to the meat investigation by the late Theodore Roosevelt. His fault was that he was not a packer's puppet. The meat inspection law to keep unfit meat off the tables of the people."

The commissioner recalled the claim that the Chicago meat packers represented the typical of American business as a whole.

SCORE ROCKEFELLER PLAN.

Pueblo, Col., Nov. 5.—According to a statement issued by officials of the United Mine Workers, Colorado district, these workers are engaged in a struggle against the establish collective bargaining, to resist the company-union scheme of John D. and the company, "union" of Rockefeller. The miners' representatives declare, "we propose "to show the people of America that the widely-heralded Rockefeller plan is nothing more than one of these hypothetic dreams of a benevolent autocracy, a modern system of paternalism and plunder (which soon will be exposed) was inaugurated to cover up the nakedness of a giant octopus which threatens to destroy our western civilization and democracy."

WHY ARE SHOE COSTS HIGH?

New York, Nov. 5.—The quarterly report of the International Shoe Leather company shows a three-months' profit of $2,612,000 after charges and taxes have been paid. This is equivalent to $9.25 on the $17,500,000 preferred stock, as compared with $4.30 a share during the same period in 1918.

BUTCHERS REDUCE HOURS.

Memphis, Tenn., Nov. 5.—Organized butcher workmen are reducing their long hours of duty and many firms are signing the new 10-hour agreement.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

New Haven, Conn., Nov. 5.—Printing pressmen and assistants have secured wage increases that range from 10 to 20 per cent.

DRIVERS GET 6 HOURS.

San Francisco, Nov. 5.—An eight-hour day in retail stores and department houses has been secured by organized retail delivery drivers.

WORKERS MUST AWAKE TO ANTI-STRIKE PLAN

Washington, Nov. 5.—The executive council of the American Federation of Labor has issued a call to organized labor to awaken to the dangers contained in the Cummins railroad bill, which is a menace to railroad employes a criminal offense.

The necessity for action is indicated by these declarations from the executive council:

"Fellow workers, we solemnly advise you your rights and interests are in jeopardy. Only utmost vigilance and prompt action can protect you against aggressively hostile enactments. Only united effort can stay the gains of years of struggle and sacrifice.

"Workers, rouse yourself for your own protection. Act before it is too late. Hold meetings, send telegrams and letters to your representatives and senators at Washington, D. C., assert your rights and demand your legislation of a similar character.

"The provision for the honorable means at your command in a most earnest protest against the most vicious and unjustifiable attempt to restore slavery within our republic—slavery which has been paid for by our own kind blood.

"The objectionable section of the Cummins bill makes it unlawful for employes to strike. A transportation tribunal, to be appointed by the president, will make final decisions on wages, hours and working conditions. The workers are denied a voice in the selection of these five men, and if their call to duty they will be jailed and fined.

Another section of the bill makes it a criminal offense for others to give such counsel to the workers that results in a strike.

Under this latter section even criticism of the law could be construed as a misdemeanor.

MANY LIVES WASTED.

Washington, Nov. 5.—"Efficiency" methods are referred to as statements issued by the United States children's bureau, which says that in this country 36,000 mothers die in child birth and nearly 250,000 babies die under one year of age. The "efficiency" of these preventable.

Other countries report markedly lower death rates of babies and of mothers in child birth. Among the important countries it show a more favorable maternal death rate than the United States and six a more favorable infant mortality rate.

This neglect of maternity and infancy, the bureau says, leads not only to thousands of preventable deaths but to impaired vitality and permanent impairment of health and efficiency for thousands of women and infants who survive.

Of some 21,000 city babies studied by the bureau in seven different types of home in seven cities, more than half were found in homes where the fathers' earnings were below the amount which was at that time the minimum for decency and hare necessities of existence. Only in a few cases of the "prosperous" type were the father's earnings reached a full minimum for comfort.

MRS. GARY BACKS HUSBAND.

New York, Nov. 5.—According to a local newspaper Mrs. Gary has expressed her full approval of the leadership of the steel strikers' executive, of Gary, Ind. The strikers' wives elected Mrs. Gary, who refused to the Indiana city "not to be executive."

"You know," she told the reporter, "how I feel about my husband's attitude in this matter. He doesn't consult me about his business affairs, but he also said that she did not understand why the strikers' wives had addressed her, and if they thought her opinion might be different from her husband's, they had no reason for it.

BUTCHERS RAISE WAGES.

San Francisco, Nov. 5.—A wage increase of $5 a week has been negotiated by Butchers' union No. 115. The new scale of wages, which includes an increased its membership within the last several months, has also been signed by conditions and general betterments for its members.

BAKERS MAKE GAINS.

San Francisco, Nov. 5.—Wage increases that range from $5 to $7 a week have been secured by Bakers' Union No. 24. Night work is eliminated except for dough mixers.

MILL MEN WIN STRIKE.

Dubuque, Iowa, Nov. 5.—Mill men employed by the Brunswick-Balke-Collender company have won a three-weeks' strike against discrimination.

31,300 LOST AT SEA.

Washington, Nov. 5.—In a minority report to the United States shipping board against weakening the seamen's act by relaxing the agreements and the percentage of able seamen for crews, President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union shows that 31,300 lives have been lost on passenger steamers since 1895. The report includes this statement by Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the English statesman:

"Bear in mind, when a ship is lost the ship owner may make a profit, the master may make more than the value of his ship, the merchant may lose nothing but may and very often does get more than the value of the cargo back. In the same way the underwriter avoids his losses, and on the whole; makes a profit on the transaction. But the seamen perish."

Attention is called to the report by the international labor office of the United States senate which investigated the Titanic disaster, the vessel going down at a time when President Furuseth declares, "as smooth as a mill pond." The senate report declares that 1,490 lives could have been saved.

"The failure to utilize the full boats to their recognized capacity for safety accommodations," the report says, "is a serious offense, because several hundred lives which might otherwise have been saved."

ALL WAR TAXES PASSED ON.

New York, Nov. 5.—The passing of all war taxes on the consumer is largely responsible for present living costs, declared Charles L. Bernheimer of the New York state chamber of commerce.

When the war started, says Mr. Bernheimer, business men knew they would be taxed and they planned ways to meet this cost. He illustrated this by showing what happened in the cotton industry, which he interested.

"The cotton grower made a general increase of 50 per cent in his selling price. The manufacturers, jobbers and as did the bleachers, the starchers, the machinery men who equipped the plants, the men who made the oil to lubricate the machines and the men who made the soap used by the men in the finished product. This process continued through all the innumerable items that the cotton cloth had to go through before it reached the consumer.

"What was true of the cotton industry was true of almost every other branch of work. This means that not only did the consumer pay the amount or percentage of the federal tax, but all along the line he paid the manufacturer the additional profit that he insured to the latter his net profits."

DEMAND FREE SPEECH.

Washington, Nov. 5.—A delegation of trade unionists from Pittsburg and vicinity protested to the federal government against the denial of free speech and free assemblage by Pennsylvania, according to the workers' spokesmen. Attorney General Palmer that the denial of constitutional rights in western Pennsylvania was unwarranted and impossible and has resulted in a loss of faith in the government officials by a large percentage of citizens.

Pittsburg, Pa., Nov. 5.—At a meeting of the state federation of labor, attended by over 500 delegates, a series of resolutions against the denial of free speech were passed. The governor was asked to have state constabulary proceedings against officials who have violated their oaths of office.

H. C. OF L. AGAIN.

Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 8.—The Tucson Post calls attention to this situation in a short article under the head of "Profiteering":

"Why—The net earnings of the Armour Grain company, one of the "big five" packers, dealing in cereals, for the quarter ending with the first of the capital stock.

"For 1919—After deducting a 7% per cent dividend on the capital stock, the net surplus of undivided profits of $2,631,330 or over 90 per cent profit, if the capital stock remained the same as the previous year.

"As there has been no reduction in the cost of living it seems that there has been no reduction in profiteering."

ONE A DAY KILLED.

Olympia, Wash., Nov. 5.—The state safety board reports that every working day of the year one employe is killed in the industries of the state. It is stated that fully 85 per cent of the fatalities could be avoided.

State of Washington 21,936 accidents were reported in one year.

STRIKE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 5.—Organized tobacco workers employed by the Weyman-Bruton plant are striking to reduce the work week from 61 hours to eight hours a day.

ORDERLY LEADERSHIP STAYED BY COURT WRIT

Washington, Nov. 8.—The injunction issued against coal miners will only be effective in the absence of orderly leadership of this strike, declared President Samuel Gompers of the Federation and Vice President Wolf of the A. F. of L. executive council, in defense of protest to Attorney General Palmer.

After reviewing the causes that led to the strike call of John L. Lewis, they said:

"The mine owners very cleverly met the issue by appearing willing and anxious to negotiate, but only if the miners would first withdraw their call, only power at their command to gain a hearing for their just demands for cooperation—the decision to strike whenever it was demonstrated fair deals were refused.

"We are now faced with a coal strike of vast magnitude. The necessities of vast populations, the interests because of a possible coal shortage, apparently the government is not concerned with the manipulation of prices, the profiteering and the exploitation—the decision to strike whenever it was demonstrated fair deals were refused.

"We are now faced with a coal strike of vast magnitude. The necessities of vast populations, the interests because of a possible coal shortage, apparently the government is not concerned with the manipulation of prices, the profiteering and the exploitation of the coal barons' expectations. The coal operators have their way to be done and that all war legislation is to be wiped out, and the workers have no concern. The government intends to apply existing war measures not against the profiteers of the coal mines but against the coal miners.

"It is almost inconceivable that a government which has appealed to the patriotism and aspirations of its own people, in order to gain a decisive participation in a great war to liberate suppressed peoples should now undertake to crush the spirit of liberty, hopes and aspirations of its own people.

"It is still more strange that a method which may be fairly proud of the Abraham Lincoln stood forward to serve the application of the great truth he proclaimed, that there is no power between capital and labor, labor should have the first and foremost consideration."

STRIKE FOR 44 HOURS.

New York, Nov. 8.—To enforce a forty-four hour week agreement several thousand packing house employes have suspended work, it was said by union officials here to retail merchants.

"Knowing as I do how my men have been deceived and victimized by the packers in the past, I am sure they are now headed for disaster, I would be a poor citizen and an impatriot if I sympathized in the least with the irrational demands now made upon them. I am for the workers' rights, but in the interest of sound citizenship to close the doors of my plant until such time as the workers have been loosed from the domination and control dictated by bolshevist agitators."

WANTS TRUTHFUL PRESS.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 5.—"The press must be free to tell the truth or there is no truth in the next 25 or 50 years," says Governor Philipp, "and I am against the subservience of many newspapers to the state, which is the interest of the people, and made responsive to the people of the state and not to the interests."

"Democracy, in order to function, must be based on a healthy public sentiment. And there can be no healthy sentiment when the news given to the people is colored and slanted in behalf of privilege and wealth."

NO UNIONS; HIGH PRICES.

Washington, Nov. 8.—The United States bureau of labor statistics quotes extracts from the London Economist to show that the high cost of necessities in Japan has increased 80 per cent since the war began.

This statement will be disconcerting to American super-patriots who charge that labor unions in the United States with being responsible for present high prices and profiteering.

There are no trade unions in Japan except those that escape the vigilant eye of secret service officials.

ELECTRICIANS GAIN.

Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 5.—A wage increase of 5 cents an hour has been secured by electrical workers in this city. Nearly all the men will get new rates are 87½ cents for journeymen and 80¢ cents for foremen.

LAUNDRY WORKERS UNITE.

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 5.—Laundry workers in this city have organized and affiliated with the trade union movement.